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lecture trip. He is speaking at the State College of Washington, University of Washington, Reed College, Oregon Agricultural College, University of Oregon, Leland Stanford Junior University and the University of California. Before returning he will spend some time at his observatory in Flagstaff.

PROFESSOR EMMANUEL DE MARTONNE, professor of geography in the Sorbonne, arrived in New York on September 18 to take up his work as visiting French professor at Columbia University. He is giving courses on European physiography under the auspices of the department of geology. His offerings include two courses of four lectures each, delivered in French and open to the public. The subjects and dates of these lectures are: (1) *Montagnes du Centre et Sud de la France*, 4:15 P.M. (Massif Central), October 19 and 26, November 2, and (French Alps) November 9; (2) *Plaines et Champs de Bataille du Nord de la France*, 8:15 P.M., November 15, 22 and 29, and December 6. In connection with this series of lectures, there are conferences, open to advanced students, in which a detailed study of certain phases of the work will be made. Professor de Martonne is also cooperating with Professor D. W. Johnson in a course on the physiography of Europe, in which the Alps, the Carpathians, and southeastern Europe will be discussed by Professor de Martonne.

THE New York sections of the American Electrochemical Society and the Illuminating Engineering Society have arranged for a joint session to be held at the Engineering Societies Building, 29 West 39th St., New York, on Thursday evening, November 9, at 8 o'clock. A program has been prepared including papers on "High Pressure Gas Installations," "The Chemistry of Gas Lighting" and "The New Flexible Mantle." Engineers and chemists interested are cordially invited to attend.

THE Thomas Hawksley lecture of the British Institution of Mechanical Engineers was delivered by Mr. H. E. Jones, on November 3, on the subject of "The Gas Engineer of the Last Century."

WE learn from the *British Medical Journal* that at the recent general meeting of the Medical Society of London, the retiring president, Sir St. Clair Thomson, drew attention to a plaque removed from the society's house in Bolt Court to the present library. The plaque was erected originally by Dr. John Coakley Lettsom, the founder of the society. The incoming president, Lieutenant-colonel D'Arcy Power delivered an address on "John Ward and His Diary." The Lettsomian lectures will be delivered by Colonel Cuthbert Wallace, C.B., and the oration by Sir William Osler.

DR. LOUIS McLANE TIFFANY, emeritus professor of medicine at the University of Maryland, and consulting surgeon for the Johns Hopkins Hospital, died on October 23, at seventy-two years of age.

PICTURES of surgery done by Dr. Alexis Carrel and others on the wounded soldiers in French hospitals have recently been made with a cinema camera and brought to this country by the Clinical Film Company. The picture will be shown before medical societies and medical students.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE General Education Board has announced the following appropriations: Albion College, Albion, Mich., \$100,000; George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tenn., \$200,000; Hamline University, St. Paul, Minn., \$100,000.

ISAAC F. NICHOLSON, Baltimore, celebrated his eightieth birthday by giving the Johns Hopkins University \$15,000 for the establishment of the Isaac Forester Nicholson Fund, to establish scholarships for needy students from Baltimore or the state of Maryland, or to be used for any other purpose the trustees may desire.

BISHOP CANDLER, chancellor of Emory University, announces the receipt of a contribution of \$50,000 from J. J. Gray, Jr., Rockdale, Tenn., for the erection of an outpatient building in connection with the medical department

of Emory University, the building to be known as the J. J. Gray Clinic.

ORSON BENNETT JOHNSON, professor emeritus of zoology in the University of Washington, has given the university his valuable entomological collection.

DR. J. ERNEST CARMAN, of the University of Cincinnati, has been appointed to the chair of geology at the Ohio State University vacant by the death of Professor Charles S. Prosser.

DR. JULIUS H. HESS has been appointed professor of pediatrics and head of the division of pediatrics in the University of Illinois, college of medicine.

DR. FRANK MALTAUER, formerly of the Cincinnati Board of Health, has become associate professor of bacteriology and public health at the College of Medicine, University of Tennessee.

DR. ALBAN STEWART, instructor in botany at the University of Wisconsin, has been appointed professor of botany and bacteriology in the Florida State College for Women, Tallahassee, Florida.

DR. R. L. BORGER, of the University of Illinois, has been appointed professor of mathematics at Ohio University, Athens, Ohio.

DR. EDWARD HART has retired as active head of the chemical department of Lafayette College, but remains connected with the department as professor of chemical engineering and as librarian of the Henry W. Oliver Chemical Library. Dr. Eugene C. Bingham has resigned the professorship of chemistry at Richmond College to become professor of chemistry and director of the Gayley Laboratory at Lafayette College. Last year Dr. Bingham was on leave of absence from Richmond College in order to carry out some special investigations at the Bureau of Standards on the subjects of fluidity and plasticity. Dr. J. Hunt Wilson, of Lehigh University, has become assistant professor of chemistry at Lafayette College.

J. F. WILSON, formerly instructor in electrical engineering at the University of Michi-

gan, has been appointed professor of electrical engineering at Queen's University, Kingston, Canada, to take the work of Professor L. W. Gill, while the latter is in active military service.

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

### SUNLIGHT AND THE MAGNETIC NEEDLE

THE editorial page of the *Electrical World* for April 1, 1916, contains the following paragraph pertaining to the subject of magnetism and terrestrial magnetism:

Considering how many centuries have elapsed since magnetic phenomena first became recognized on this planet, it is remarkable how little has yet been learned concerning the nature and laws of magnetism. All that we are able to affirm, with a reasonable degree of certainty, is that whatever electricity and magnetism may be, they must be so interrelated that one is the consequence of the curl of the other, which is one aspect of Maxwell's electromagnetic theory.

As an instance of our magnificent international ignorance of the nature of terrestrial magnetism, the simple historical fact may be cited that in 1582, the date of the international introduction of the Gregorian Calendar, with a sudden jump of ten days, the magnetic needle at London pointed 11 degrees easterly of the geographic meridian, whereas it now points nearly 16 degrees westerly of that meridian, and in 1820 nearly attained 25 degrees of westerly declination, a total of more than 36 degrees, while no satisfactory theory of the large change has yet been produced.

The foregoing is particularly interesting to the writer, who is directly interested in collecting ocean data on the non-magnetic ship *Carnegie* to be used, first, practically in constructing charts for navigation and, second, in theorizing on the causes of the earth's magnetism and on its changes as referred to. I desire to call attention to the work of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, D. C., in the making of extensive magnetic observations leading to the formation of some correct theory of the causes of the earth's magnetism.

The writer wishes to contribute the following on the general subject of magnetism, of whatever value it may be.